

1991 26 August 1991

Inkatha Youth slams ANC 'double talk'

ULUNDI. — The African National Congress has been accused of double talk, satanism, and of trying to usurp power and of barbarism by the Inkatha Freedom Party's Youth Brigade which ended its 12th annual conference at Ulundi yesterday.

The conference resolutions, which were anything but conciliatory, came just three weeks before major peace talks between the IFP, the ANC and the government, and others.

In its resolutions the Youth Brigade expressed support for the "historic visionary leadership" of IFP leader Chief Buthelezi.

Concerning the secret funding of two Inkatha rallies, the Youth Brigade deplored the South African Government's provision of the money "without prior knowledge of the Inkatha leadership structures".

In another resolution the Youth Brigade decided that peaceful negotiations might be prejudiced should the ANC's military wing not be disbanded.

It was disgusted by the continued recruitment of "young blood" to undergo military training for the ANC.

"It is with deep regret that the commitment of the ANC to (an) honest and unqualified search for peace is in serious question in view of its ambivalence and double talk since its track record is fraught with contradictions" it noted.

These contradictions included a statement by ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela which was not consistent with the IFP/ANC accord of January, and the announcement the congress would ignore the IFP because of the slush funding controversy.

The brigade therefore resolved to "call upon the ANC . . . to publicly denounce this new obstacle

to reconciliation and future negotiations in order to purge our society of war-talk and violence".

The organisation then went on to express its abhorrence for the "satanic and barbaric behaviour of the senior ANC authorities for the atrocities" reported by prisoners held in punishment camps in Angola.

It resolved that the Red Cross be allowed to interview the former ANC prisoners; that the SA Council of Churches "stop the holier-than-thou approach against the IFP" and investigate the congress' camps; and that the South African Government investigate the allegations.

The Youth Brigade also denied media inferences that members had undergone para-military training so as to be able to attack ANC members.

It called on the media "to desist from fanning the fires of violence and divisive tactics against Blacks." — Sapa.

16/1/11

The Star

Established 1887

South Africa's largest daily newspaper

Reason for optimism

HELEN SUZMAN is right: hopeful signs can be seen on the horizon. Major points of convergence between the National Party and the African National Congress on South Africa's future are solidifying. They augur well for a political settlement in the next year or so.

Mrs Suzman succinctly spelt out the emerging consensus between the two main political players in her presidential address to the Institute of Race Relations.

There is agreement on universal adult suffrage, proportional representation, a justiciable bill of rights and an independent judiciary. Although there are still differences on what the balance of power should be between central, regional and local government, and on what powers of veto or delay should be invested in a second or upper chamber, they do not appear to be insuperable.

As Mrs Suzman noted, the De Klerk administration and the ANC cannot evade negotiations without incurring unthinkable costs. They have to settle their differences at the negotiating table.

From a different perspective, the ANC's Thabo Mbeki came to essentially the same conclusion at the recent conference at Cambridge University of British and South African politicians and analysts.

But, apart from highlighting the high degree of confluence on key constitutional issues, Mr Mbeki remarked on a narrowing of differences on the vital economic front. He cited a speech by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, in which he detected a greater willingness by the authorities to acknowledge the need for some State intervention to help address the imbalances inherited from the apartheid era.

To Mr Mbeki's analysis must be added Mrs Suzman's observation that the ANC is no longer as adamant on the need for nationalisation as it was a year ago. The synthesis generates optimism with which to buoy ourselves during the tough bargaining and cynical politicking which undoubtedly lie ahead.

ANC dissidents seek end to aid

A GROUP of ANC dissidents now in Durban, who were detained by the organisation in Zambia, Angola and Uganda, yesterday broke their silence and called on the international community to immediately cease financial aid to the ANC.

They also called for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into the whereabouts of "hundreds" of missing youths recruited by the organisation over the past 15 years. They challenged the organisation to furnish the world

with proof that they worked for the South African security forces.

A member of the group, Mr Bethwell Lombo, described horrifying incidents of torture and abuse in ANC prison camps conducted by interrogators who accused him of being an agent of the South African Government.

He said the group of 32 detainees who recently arrived in the country were asked by Mrs Winnie Mandela and Mr Chris Hani not to disclose details of their incarceration to

the press.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday that the ANC would "look into the matter of a commission of inquiry".

"We don't tolerate any form of abuse or torture, and if these allegations are proved, then appropriate action will be taken," she said.

The members of the group are urging parents throughout the country whose children are missing to contact Mr Charlton Mavundla or Mr Lombo at 9073192 in Durban in case they can provide information on the whereabouts of the children.

Mr Lombo said one of the torture techniques used by the ANC involved placing five or six starving rats into a canvas bag which was then tied over the head of a detainee, who would be severely bitten by the rodents.

Mr Siphiso Laliso, who fought with the Angolan armed forces against Unita, said he was forced by the ANC security department to sign a confession stating that he had been responsible for shooting the Durban civil rights lawyer, Mr Griffiths Mxenge.

"But I would have been in Standard 3 at the time," he said.

Abandon SACP

THE collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union has come with breathtaking speed.

After the coup against him failed, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to Moscow, proclaiming there would be no witch-hunt.

The Communist Party should be purged of its reactionary forces, he said, while defending the party.

But Mr Gorbachev under-estimated the popular feeling against the party — and the KGB.

He also under-estimated the forces for freedom and democracy that he had unleashed with his reforms and which were epitomised by the thousands of Russians who manned the barricades to protect the Russian Federation Parliament and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The attempts by Soviet tanks to break through the barricade of buses, resulting in the deaths of three Russians, was a turning point.

Communist Party offices were ransacked in several parts of the country, the statue of Lenin was toppled in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, and the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the KGB, was toppled in Moscow.

The "people power" that had been responsible for ousting Communist Parties in Eastern Europe had now turned on the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

Mr Gorbachev's refusal to renounce the Communist Party threatened his own position.

On Saturday he quit as Communist Party general secretary, announced that the Communist Party assets had been seized, and recommended the disbandment of the party.

Observers say that Mr Gorbachev has effectively dismantled the party, and it seems this is so.

There are fears now that the Soviet Union will break up, with Soviet republics, besides the Baltic States, declaring their independence.

The rest may form a loose confederation of autonomous states.

But the spectre looming over the Soviet Union is that of ethnic and nationalist rivalries, which, as is happening in Yugoslavia, may cause an explosion that will destroy the Soviet Union.

It is not what Western strategists would want, since a reformist USSR would be better than a fragmented USSR that would leave a power vacuum in Central and Eastern Europe.

However, the demise of the Communist Party will certainly be welcomed in countries where Communist Parties have relied in the past on assistance from the party in Moscow and from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, with its economy collapsing, had already given up stoking the fires of regional conflict.

The MPLA in Angola, Frelimo in Mozambique and the African National Congress in South Africa could no longer rely on its financial and military support, hence the emphasis on peaceful solutions.

Now a Soviet Union in which the Communist Party is virtually disintegrating will not bother at all with the ANC-Communist Party alliance.

Its priorities will be to stay alive, to save whatever can be salvaged from the possible wreckage.

The collapse of Communism and the Communist Party in the Soviet Union demonstrates that the South African Communist Party no longer has any logical basis for existing.

Communism cannot contribute to South Africa's future.

It has failed in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. It cannot work in South Africa.

And make no mistake: The world will not allow South Africa to adopt Communism and expect any financial or other help.

The ANC has to break off its alliance with the SACP because the SACP will be a millstone around its neck.

The lesson for South Africa is outdated, economically destructive Communism must be avoided at all costs.

The SACP of Mr Joe Slovo won't abandon Communism, so the ANC must abandon the SACP.

16/1/11

ANC dishonest about crimes against members

STAR Monday 26 August 1991

I have had difficulties with the ANC in trying to find my son, Gabriel Sethloke, who was arrested by the ANC on suspicion of being an "enemy agent".

They've labelled my son: at the same time they demand an independent inquiry to prosecute all those who have committed crimes against our people. Yet they claim Dirk Coetzee of Vlakplaas as their comrade, and all his alleged crimes have been nullified. I really don't understand what the new South Africa will be like, if we are going to stay with people like Dirk Coetzee, Joe Modise, Chris Hani, Mzwandile Pilliso and Tambo.

Up to now they've not been honest with themselves or with our people.

I'm afraid of this so-called "New South Africa". We are going to have a government of crooks. My child is suffering from migraine headaches due to their torture which is hidden to our people. My child was smuggled to Uganda by the so-called revolutionaries such as Joe Modise, Chris Hani, Joe Nhlanhla, Jacob Zuma, Mzwai, Sizakele Sigxashe and Tambo.

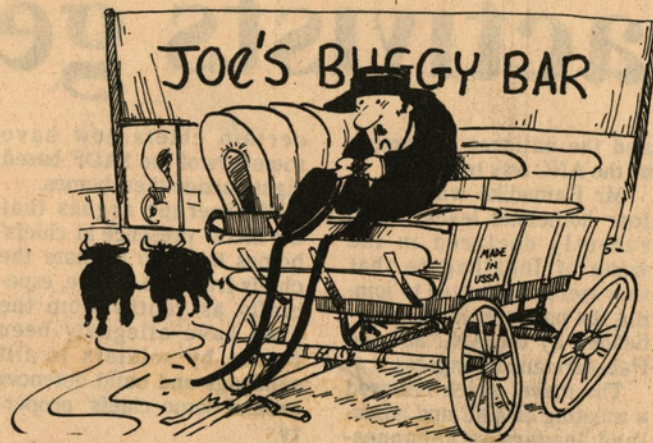
Our sources have smuggled a list of people who are still in Uganda, including: S'Londa Mbongolo, a one-time trade unionist who was very active with Cosatu; Walk Tall or Ike Modise from Dube, a nephew to late Potlako Leballo; Marutha from Natal; Romedeus Malinga from Durban; Skepe

from Durban; Twiggy from Mdantsane; Round or Maqitshane; Makaku from Durban; Mbuzi, a son to a business man of Durban; Roberto de Souza from Eersterus in Pretoria; Keith McKenzie from Eersterus; Percy, who was working with Winnie Mandela; Plankies from Molapo; Magwaza Zakaria.

This list is long. I'm just trying to show that ANC has never been honest; they are braver at pointing fingers at other people. I obtained this list from demoralised "Mbokodo" warders who have been killing many of our people; they are afraid of returning because of atrocities they've committed.

I want my child.

Sethloke family
Meadowlands



Slovonomics won't build cars

Joe Slovo implied he would have difficulty in buying a second-hand motor car from FW after his recent speech to the Press.

Communist-inspired economies still have to prove that they can produce motor cars for ordinary mortals, let alone sell them.

I would not buy or drive a car produced under Slovonomics — its disselboom might

fall off.

Greville Wood

Roodepoort

Letters to the editor should be sent to Box 61682, Marshalltown 2107 (fax 836-8398). Letters must include the writer's name for publication unless an acceptable reason is given. Letters must also be signed.

Fortunate to have Star group of newspapers

Your correspondent A Williams (Readers' Views, July 30) has a very distorted view of The Star and of Rhodesian politics and clearly has allowed prejudices to undermine sound judgment.

We are fortunate to have a group of newspapers of the quality of The Star, Saturday Star and Sunday Star, to provide a spectrum of South African and international news and opinion from which sound assessments of affairs can be made. Nevertheless the various Stars have erred in not reporting more fully on black political and township life and opinion such as is to be found in The Weekly Mail. It matters not that that newspaper supports the ANC. Newspapers worldwide have allegiances to political parties or ideologies. Think of The Telegraph,

The Guardian, The New York Times and The Chicago Tribune to name a few.

As for The Weekly Mail being "shifty", this is the last word for a newspaper whose allegations are found to be correct, weeks or even years after the events.

With regard to the newspapers published by the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Co, if more Rhodesians had heeded their editorial stance, Rhodesia would not have suffered years of grief. Racial arrogance wiped out 25 years of a country's history. History WILL repeat itself if the racial attitudes expressed by too many people in South Africa are not changed.

Take heed. These attitudes are deadly.

Paulshof

F R Nobes

proposals on constitu

Political Staff and Sapa

ALL indications are that the National Party has decided to set the pace on constitutional proposals in the run-up to a multiparty conference.

It became known at the weekend that the NP plans to reveal a package of constitutional proposals within 10 days.

One of the recommendations is to replace the single presidential head of state by a council of three to five members.

The NP's proposals — described yesterday by the party's new secretary-general, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, as not necessarily the final draft — are to be tabled at a special federal congress in Bloemfontein on September 4.

Dr Van der Merwe said, however, the proposals were not "startlingly new" and that what the party had done was to put together the constitutional thoughts of the past 18 months or so into a coherent plan.

Asked if the NP would also be presenting its negotiating strategy for approval by the federal congress, Dr van der Merwe said if this happened it would be a "by-product".

The main purpose of the congress was to ratify the constitutional plan.

He confirmed the NP had decided to present its constitutional plan to its membership now because of the new sense of urgency in the negotiation process.

Emphasising that no final constitutional plan had been drafted, Dr Van der Merwe said one of the critical areas being worked on was how minorities would be represented in the proposed upper chamber of the legislature.

Political observers agree this crucial area of group representation will determine how widely the NP plan is accepted by other political groups.

This latest development confirms a report on Friday that the NP had shifted its organisational and policy programme into top gear.

Senior party sources were quoted as saying that the matter had become more vital since a multiparty conference was expected to follow the signing of an all-party peace accord in Johannesburg on September 14.

The NP proposals include:

- A multiparty Cabinet made up of candidates from parties with "sufficient" support;
- Two houses of parliament;
- Proportional representation instead of the winner-takes-all model in the first house of parliament: parties will be allocated representation based on countrywide support and not on the number of constituencies won;
- Nine regions, each with its own "government";
- New municipal boundaries so that all racial groups would be administered by single municipal councils.
- A democratic state with no apartheid and no discrimination based on race, and
- One person one vote, without group domination.

Meanwhile, reports from the Northern Transvaal were that Cabinet members and MECs gave several clear hints — on vital issues — in Pietersburg on Saturday of the government's future negotiating stance.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis told a regional congress of the NP that the government had no intention of handing over power.

He said political and economic reform had to go together.

Mr Du Plessis insisted that there could be no lasting peaceful solution to the country's political problems without a healthy economy.

He said factors such as increased productivity and better management at all levels were therefore receiving urgent attention, as they were vital in fighting inflation and other economic ills.

Fax: 0358 - 202070

Dr. Buthelegi:

will you please comment on these proposals?

thanks.

Peter Sidego

die Burger.

16/1/11

ETHEKWINI. - Kuda-
luleke amahlazo ma-
yelana nezenzo zo-
kuhlukunyezwa ka-
nye nokushaywa
kwalabo ababesole-
lwa ukuthi bayizi-
mpimpi ezinkanjini
ze-African National
Congress (ANC) ezi-
sezindaweni ezahlu-
kene e-Afrika okuthi-
wa izikhulu zale-
nhlangano zazino-
lwazi olugcwele
ngakho.

Lokhu kudalulwe
ngowayeyilungu loMkho-
nto weSizwe obengomu-
nye wabangu 32 abathe-
leke kuleli bephuma
ezinkanjini abebevalelwe
kuzo amazweni ase-Afri-
ka.

Kwenzeka lokhu-nje,
ngempelasonto obekhuluma
egameni labangu 32
abakhululwe yilenhlanga-

Imizamo ye-ANC yokugqiba amahlazo ngeziboshwa zayo

Ivan 24

26/05/91

no emajele ayo uMnuz
Joachim Ribiero de Sou-
sa uchazele abezindaba
ngokuhlukunyezwa aba-
kuthola ezikhulwini zo-
Mkhonto weSizwe ngesi-
khathi besolwa ukuthi
bayizimpimpi yizikhulu
ze-ANC ikakhulukazi
uMnuz Chris Hani oyi-
nhloko yoMkhonto weSi-
zwe.

Uthe konke okwa-
kwenziwa kubo kwakwa-
ziwa yizikhulu ze-ANC
phakathi kwazo abale

uMnuz Oliver Tambo
obenguMongameli wale-
nhlangano kodwa ose-
ngusihlalo wayo, uMnuz
Joe Modise, uMnuz
Chris Hani, uMnuz Steve
Tshwete kanye noMnuz
Jacob Zuma athe bake
bavakashela ezinkanjini
abebevalelwe kuzo.

UMnuz de Sousa
uthe unokungayethembi
i-ANC futhi wesabela
impilo yakhe wathi uma
esola ingozi ethile uzo-
nxusa abeRed Cross uku-
ba bamthathe bamkhi-
phele ngaphandle kwe-
mingcele yakulelizwe.
Uthe nokho ukholwa
ngukuthi umqulu we-
ANC uyingxenywe yokwa-
kha umbuso okhululekile
wentando yeningi kuleli-
zwe. Wathi kodwa le-
nhlangano kayikwenzi lo-
kho okuqukethwe ngum-
bhala kumbe umqulu
wayo.

Uthe ukudalula kwa-
khe lezizizahlakalo ezi-
nkanjini ze-ANC ukwe-
nza ngenhloso yokuthi
abantu bakulelizwe bazi
ukuthi luhlobo luni luka-
hulumeni okufanele ba-
wulindele kulenhlanga-
no. Wathi lokhu ekushu-
mayelayo kwezombusa-
zwe kayikufazi.

Ukuchithile ukuthi
ukuboshwa kwakhe ku-

ngenxa yokuthi wayeyi-
mpimpi yabezokuphepha
bakulelizwe wathi usola
ukuthi waboshwa ngenxa
yokuthi enokushayisana
ngomqondo noMnuz
Chris Hani. Wathi babe-
nokushayisana okukhulu
noMnuz Hani ikakhulu-
kazi mayelana nokutha-
nda abesifazane. Wathi
ukholwa ngukuthi yilesi-
sizathu esenza ukuba
aboshwe yilenhlangano.

UMnuz de Sousa uve-
ze ukuthi wajoyina ku-
ANC ngo 1981. Wathi
ngemuva kokuba enze
izifundo zesayensi enyu-
vesi yaseColumbia eMe-
lika wajoyina uMnyango
wezomthetho i-Ordin-
ance Department nga-
phansi kwe-ANC. Uthe
ngo 1986 waboshwa nga-
maphoyisa aseSouth
Africa ePitoli.

Uthe yingalesisikhathi
lapho amaphoyisa ase-
South Africa amnxusa
ukuba angene ngaphansi
kwawo abeyimpimpi ya-
wo. Wathi lezimamo ka-
yibanga yimpumelelo
ngoba ngemuva koku-
khululwa kwakhe ejele
wabuyela eLusaka wafike
wamchazela uMnuz Hani
ngalokho okwakushiwo
ngamaphoyisa kuye owa-
mtshela ukuthi akukho
nkinga udaba lwakhe

uzoluxazulula.

Uqhube wathi nge-
muva kwalokhu watha-
thwa wayovalelwa endlini
ethile eseLusaka ebizwa
ngokuthi yiRehabilita-
tion Centre lapho avale-
lwa khona wahlutshulwa
izingubo zokugqoka wa-
nganikezwa futhi izingu-
bo zokulala. Uthe kule-
ndlu waphenywa kabanzi
eshaywa ngisho nanga-
phansi kwezinyawo ngo-
munye owayaziwa kaku-
lu ngokuthi nguJomo.
Wathi kuze kube manje
unenkinga yokungapha-
theke kahle ezinyaweni,
emadolweni emaqakaleni
kanye nasezindololwane-
ni lapho ayeshaywa kho-
na.

Uthe wabuye wabo-
shwa izandla ngozankosi
kwathiwa makaqoshame
okwalandela ngukuba
kufakwe induku ngapha-
nsi kwemilenze nezingalo
waphakanyiswa balenga
phakathi kwamatafula
amabili eshaywa ngenta-
mbo kagesi. Wathi ngesi-
nye isikhathi washaywa
waze waquleka kanti
ekuphaphameni kwakhe
wazithola elengiswe
emoyeni ikhanda libheki-
swe phansi futhi selibu-
hlungu ngendlela yokuthi
wayecabanga ukuthi lizo-
qhuma.

Wathi ngemuva kwa-
lokhu umphenyi wamni-
keza incwadi eyayisihleli-
we aphoqwa ukuba ayisa-
yine evuma ukuthi uyim-
pimpi yamaphoyisa
ezomoya aseSouth Afri-
ca. Uthe wasuswa lapha
wayiswa e-Angola lapho
avalelwa khona esitoki-
sini okwake kwahlala ku-
so owayeyilungu lombu-
tho wezokuvikela kuleli
uMnuz Wynand du Toit.
Wathi ngemuva kwalokhu
wedluliselwa enkani-
jini ye-ANC eyaziwa
ngokuthi yiCamp 32 wa-
gcina esedluliselwe
e-Uganda.

Okubonakala kuyimi-
zamo yokubhula lomlilo
kanye nokuxazulula inki-
nga ephakathi kwalaba
abebevalelwe ezinkanjini
ze-ANC, uMnuz Hani
noNkk Winnie Mandela
babenomhlangano ophu-
thumayo nalamalungu
obukweline lamahhotela
aseGoli lapho kuvunyele-
nwe khona ngokuba ku-
dalwe ubudlelwano obu-
hle phakathi kwezinhla-
ngothi zombili.

Esitatimendeni esi-
khishwe ngemuva kwalom-
hlangano ochazwe ngo-
kuthi ubenempumelelo
enkulu, kunxuswe abezi-
ndaba ukuba babhale
ngendlela yokuthi banga-
limazi amathuba okudala
ukuthelelana amanzi
phakathi kwalamalungu
ne-ANC. Kulesitatime-
nde okubikwe ukuthi si-
fundwe nguNkk Mandela
kuvezwe ukuthi i-ANC
kayinazinhloso zokupha-
zamisa ukuphepha kwa-
lamalungu.

Kubikwe ukuthi
uMnuz Hani wenqabile
ukuphawula mayelana
nokuthinteka kwakhe
esehlakalweni sokubo-
shwa kukaMnuz de Sou-
sa. Wathi akazimisele
ukusho lutho ngaloluda-
ba.

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

Abandon SACP

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The SACP of Mr Joe Slovo won't abandon Communism, so the ANC must abandon the SACP.

It has no alternative.

16/11/91

Call for Front a bid by ANC 'for partners'

ULUNDI. — Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Buthelezi on Saturday charged the ANC is calling for a Patriotic Front in an attempt to gain partners to push it into government.

Speaking at the IFP Youth Brigade annual conference at Ulundi, Chief Buthelezi said the ANC wanted to line up everyone who opposed apartheid behind it (the ANC) so that it could "strut out as the victorious party".

However, Chief Buthelezi said the ANC did not want the Patriotic Front to fight apartheid since

apartheid was already dead.

"Apartheid is smashed up, it is dismembered and its total eradication is a foregone conclusion," he said.

He denounced the ANC's armed struggle saying it could not be called an armed struggle.

"Not one place in South Africa was made into a no-go area for security forces. After a quarter of a century there was not one military base in our country. You can hardly call what they did an armed struggle," Chief Buthelezi said.

Chief Buthelezi related

the failures of the ANC's military struggle saying "it was not what they did which brought us to where we are today".

He said the victory belonged to the people of South Africa.

Regarding the ANC's call for an interim government he said the IFP was not in favour of this as it would be a first ANC step as an ensconced government-in-waiting.

He added the IFP would accept nothing other than open negotiations for a new constitution. —Sapa

Slovo calls for *DAILY NEWS* democracy *26 AUGUST 1991* within SACP

Daily News Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG: The crisis in the Soviet Union re-emphasised the need for communist parties to democratise themselves, Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, said yesterday.

Speaking in the wake of Mikhail Gorbachev's dramatic resignation at the weekend as general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr Slovo said: "Perhaps he waited too long and was too slow in doing something about (democratising) the party."

Mr Slovo, whose SACP has a chance of sharing power with the African National Congress after South Africa's first post-apartheid national election, identified what he saw as a fundamental weakness in Mr Gorbachev's attempt to democratise the Soviet Union.

He reckoned that the Soviet leader had tried to "democratise society without democratising the structures in charge of all levels of that society".

Mr Slovo, who in a major re-appraisal of socialism after the crisis of communism in Eastern Europe stressed the need for democracy within the SACP as well as for South Africa, said: "Democracy is not something we can take for granted, even in our party."

Referring to "knee-jerk" reactions to the present crisis in the Soviet Union and to threats to outlaw communist parties, Mr Slovo warned that crimes were not only committed against democracy, but also in the name of democracy.

Of the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, who played a critical role in thwarting the conspiracy by the communist leaders to oust Mr Gorbachev,

Mr Slovo said: "Yeltsin can produce the pressures which can lead to more purposeful movement towards addressing the problems of the Soviet Union."

While Mr Yeltsin's apparent espousal of Russian nationalism was not without danger in a heterogeneous society such as the Soviet Union, he championed positive forces, including pressure for decentralisation of power, political and economic, and "continuous assault" on the slow pace of reform.

"Perhaps the only hope for some kind of stability in the Soviet Union is an accommodation between Gorbachev and Yeltsin," Mr Slovo said.

Jeremy Cronin, a member of the SACP central committee, said of the past week's events in the Soviet Union: "It is a chapter in a crisis rather than a whole new set of events."

But the wider crisis, which embraced the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, was developing faster and more dramatically than observers had anticipated, he said.

"Another important observation from our point of view is that the Communist Party was unable to react meaningfully to events after the attempted coup.

"It failed to be a coherent force. It was unable to bring people out under the banner of the party against the coup, in celebration of its failure or against the undemocratic acts in the some of the republics where they are banning the party."

Noting that the CPSU had a membership of about 16 million (population 300 million), he said: "Although it has a large membership, it hasn't got an

active, mobilised membership. One should look very critically at that rather than be nostalgic about the past. If it is a paper tiger, I would personally sympathise with what Gorbachev is trying to do — start again."

It would compel communists at home to come up with "more robust reasons for the existence of a communist party in South Africa and respond to assertions that it is an outdated force whose time had expired."

Russia leads the rebel challenge

Gorbachev BUSINESS DAY fights to save 26 August 1991 his position

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev, who pulled the rug out from under the Soviet establishment by crushing the Communist Party, prepared yesterday to salvage some of his lost authority.

An aide said Gorbachev, back in office after a failed right-wing coup but far from sure of his grip on power, was working on a report to parliament today on the putsch and measures to prevent future attempts.

On Saturday, Gorbachev quit as Communist Party leader and ordered its vast property holdings be handed over to local authorities. Party activity was banned from the army, the KGB and every state organisation.

The move opened the final breach in the walls of Soviet power, and the constituent republics quickly stepped in to fill it.

Byelorussia, whose government was among the most conservative in the Soviet Union, declared its independence last night; the Moldavian parliament said it would debate a declaration of independence tomorrow; and the Ukraine said it was taking control of all military forces on its territory. And the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — took new strides towards independence when Norway and Denmark followed Iceland in recognising them.

But perhaps Gorbachev's greatest chal-

lenge is coming from Boris Yeltsin, with the Russian president issuing a series of decrees expanding his own power at the Kremlin leader's expense.

"Gorbachev will remain in office, but only as a figurehead — like the king of England," said a source close to Yeltsin.

Yeltsin has annexed the state communications system "to ensure state security" and commandeered the archives of the Communist Party and KGB security police to prevent their destruction.

He plans to issue decrees recognising the sovereignty of more of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, and is reportedly inclined to rewrite the as-yet unsigned Union Treaty so that it would limit the role of central government to control of the military, communications, transport and energy.

Ivan Silayev, prime minister of Yeltsin's Russian republic, has claimed control of the Soviet economics ministry and its assets and declared other federal ministries subject to Russian control on its territory.

In his initial reforms, Gorbachev named Silayev to head a new administration to run the Soviet economy, effectively making him acting Soviet prime minister.

Gorbachev also appointed radical pro-market economist Grigory Yavlinsky as one of Silayev's three deputies. Their work-

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Star Monday
26/08/91

Democracy the lesson of Soviet coup – Slovo

By Patrick Laurence

The crisis in the Soviet Union has re-emphasised the need for communist parties to democratise themselves, said Joe Slovo, general secretary of the South African Communist Party, yesterday.

Speaking in the wake of Mikhail Gorbachev's dramatic resignation at the weekend as general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), Mr Slovo said: "Perhaps he waited too long and was too slow in doing something about (democratising) the party."

Mr Slovo, whose SACP has a chance of sharing power with the African National Congress after South Africa's first post-apartheid national election, identified what he saw as a fundamental weakness in Mr Gorbachev's attempt to democratise the Soviet Union.

He reckoned that the Soviet leader had tried to "democratise society without democratising the structures in charge of

all levels of that society".

In a major re-appraisal of socialism after the crisis of communism in Eastern Europe, Mr Slovo stressed the need for democracy within the SACP as well as for South Africa.

"Democracy is not something we can take for granted, even in our party."

Referring to "knee-jerk" reactions to the present crisis in the Soviet Union and to threats to outlaw communist parties, Mr Slovo warned that crimes were not only committed against democracy but also in the name of democracy.

Thwarting

Of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who played a critical role in thwarting the conspiracy by CPSU leaders to oust Mr Gorbachev, Mr Slovo said: "Yeltsin can produce the pressures which can lead to more purposeful movement towards addressing the problems of the Soviet Union."

While Mr Yeltsin's apparent espousal of Russian nationalism was not without danger in a het-

erogeneous society such as the Soviet Union, he championed positive forces, including pressure for decentralisation of power, political and economic, and "continuous assault" on the slow pace of reform.

"Perhaps the only hope for some kind of stability in the Soviet Union is an accommodation between Gorbachev and Yeltsin," Mr Slovo added.

Jeremy Cronin, a member of the SACP central committee, said of the past week's events in the Soviet Union: "It is a chapter in a crisis rather than a whole new set of events."

But the wider crisis, which embraced the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, was developing faster and more dramatically than observers had anticipated, he said.

"Another important observation from our point of view is that CPSU was unable to react meaningfully to events before, during and after the attempted coup."

"It failed to be a coherent force. It was unable to bring people out under the banner of the party against the coup."

Noting that the CPSU had a

membership of about 16 million (out of a population of 300 million), he said: "Although it has a large membership, it hasn't got an active, mobilised membership. If it is a paper tiger, then I would personally sympathise with what Gorbachev is trying to do: start again."

It would, he added, compel communists at home to come up with "more robust reasons for the existence of a communist party in South Africa" and to respond to assertions that it is an outdated "neolithic force" whose time had expired.

Cited

"I think the more alarming aspect is the scope that the crisis in the Soviet Union is giving to anti-democratic forces in our country, forces that sense blood."

He cited a leading article in Rapport urging President de Klerk never to allow communists to attain office at any level of government, thus negating the right of people to democratically choose one party above another.

16/1/11

ANC denies Front File allegation

Citizen Citizen Reporter 22/08/91

X ALLEGATIONS by a British journal that a militant group within the African National Congress had used the recent absence of the organisation's president, Mr Nelson Mandela, to restructure departments and secure more influence for themselves were yesterday described as "an outright fabrication" by ANC Director of Information and Publicity, Dr Pallo Jordan.

Dr Jordan was reacting to an article in the London-based publication, Front File, which stated that a group of South African Communist Party (SACP) members within the ANC had reshuffled the organisation's political departments to shift responsibility from Mr Mandela's office to the office of ANC secretary-general, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

The publication also claimed the aim of this group, or cabal, was to consolidate SACP control of the ANC's decision-making bodies to ensure the party did not stray too far from the socialist path.

"The article is cant, and an outright fabrication. That's all I have to say," said Dr Jordan.